



Michigan Association of Planning
A chapter of the American Planning Association

September 9, 2013

RE: Support for HB 4792 and HB 4799

Dear Criminal Justice Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) to support HB 4792 and HB 4799, important bills that seek to protect non-motorized roadway users and to educate motorists about safely sharing Michigan roads.

MAP is a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization with nearly 4,500 members including professional planners, elected and appointed land use decision makers, and ancillary professionals like engineers, attorneys, architects. We exist so that Michigan will consist of healthy, safe, prosperous, and attractive communities built first and foremost on quality community planning. We provide land use professionals and elected and appointed officials with the information, education and policy environment to make sound land use decisions.

The Michigan Association of Planning is an active supporter of policy that increases the ability of a community to plan for, develop and build connected, integrated multi modal transportation systems. While our organization primarily advocates for policy that results in the creation of multi-modal transportation systems, supportive laws like those embedded in HB 4792 and HB 4799 create an environment wherein other supportive law creates a protective and encouraging environment for users of active transportation.

Vulnerable roadway user provisions are increasing in popularity across the country with multiple states enacting laws in recent years, and legislation pending in many others. These laws make sense as we strive to create systems that are safe.

Safe and accessible multimodal transportation systems are cited as desirable community asset when decisions about where to live are made. States with policies that support such systems attract not only the talent class demographic, but also baby boomers, and families. Michigan is losing population within each of these demographic sectors to states like Colorado, Oregon and North Carolina, where policy is in place at all levels that make active transportation a viable option. HB's 4792 and 4799 are part of a holistic approach to providing safe connected transportation systems, and are an integral part of a multifaceted "active users" transportation policy.

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Michigan is making great strides in improving the safety of our roadways for all users, from the adoption nearly two years ago of the Complete Streets statute, to MDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions approach to working with local government to communicate up front about transportation investments.

This legislation provides law enforcement and prosecutors with an enhanced set of tools that fill the gap between basic traffic infractions and more serious crimes. The Michigan Association of Planning is thrilled to see bipartisan support for these complementary bills: Twenty individual Representatives from both sides of the aisle signed on as cosponsors of HB 4792 and HB 4799, including many members of the Criminal Justice Committee.

We are also pleased to note that the draft Michigan Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Plan 2013-2016 recommends the adoption of vulnerable roadway user legislation as a means to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The Michigan Association of Planning strongly supports passage of these important bills, and we urge you to vote in favor of HB 4792 and HB 4799.

Sincerely,



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